MILLERTON LAKE ENLARGEMENT OR EQUIVALENT

Description

Millerton Lake is located on the San Joaquin River about 25 miles east of Fresno. The existing Millerton Lake has a storage volume of 520 TAF. By raising the existing Friant Dam, Millerton Lake could be enlarged to a storage capacity of up to 1,240 TAF.

Potential Benefits

- Improved water supply reliability for CVP and other uses.
- Enhanced flexibility to maintain instream flows and water quality in the San Joaquin River.
- Improved ability to manage San Joaquin Valley conjunctive use operations, water quality exchanges and/or regional water transfers.
- Flood control benefits.

Potential Impacts

- Inundation of an additional 3,500 acres, including wildlife habitat and wetlands. State or federal listed and candidate wildlife species could be affected.
- Inundation of the Millerton Lake Recreational Area and two PG&E powerhouses.
- Net loss of river power generating capacity.
- Inundation of existing upstream spawning habitat.
- Flow changes could adversely impact downstream fishery and wildlife resources, dependent upon reservoir operations.

Estimated Cost

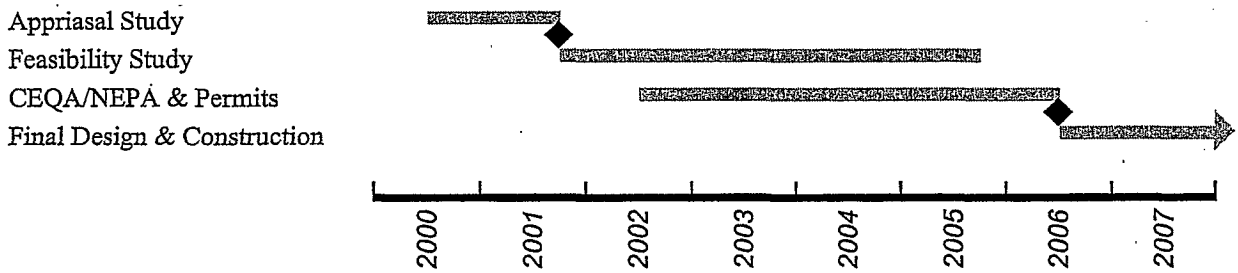
Increased Size:	**720 TAF[1]**
Total Capital Cost:	$1,100,000,000
Total Annual Cost:	$83,000,000

Notes:
[1]This cost estimate does not include relocation costs or power revenue generation losses from inundation of two upstream PG&E powerhouses.

Implementation Issues

Close coordination with USACE Comprehensive Flood Study and the NRDC/FWUA restoration efforts will be required. Other eastside San Joaquin Valley storage alternatives, such as the proposed Montgomery Reservoir (Merced River offstream storage), that might provide similar benefits, should be considered along with other actions to provide water supply for all users of the San Joaquin River.

Implementation Timeline



Recommendations

Initiate joint USBR/DWR/local partnership appraisal study to improve cost estimates, clarify implementation issues, and explore alternative means to achieve project benefits. This project should be considered in the context of broader San Joaquin River water management (flow and habitat restoration, flood management, conjunctive use, reservoir reoperation and water transfers. Secure federal authorization for a joint USBR/DWR/local partnership feasibility study and NEPA/CEQA review in FY 2002, contingent on appraisal study findings.